

P24360.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hitoshi TANAKA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Serial No. : 10/731,473

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : December 10, 2003

For : STEP ZOOM LENS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-199843 A, which was published on July 18, 2000, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-275518 A, which was published on October 6, 2000, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,369,955 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on April 9, 2002. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-100708, which was published on December 12, 1994, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,974,949 to TANAKA, which issued on December 4, 1990;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-94907, which was published on April

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12, 1996, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,790,901 to NAKAYAMA et al., which issued on August 4, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 6,512,638 to SATO et al., which issued on January 28, 2003;

U.S. Patent No. 6,493,512 to SATO, which issued on December 10, 2002; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,437,922 to ENOMOTO et al., which issued on August 20, 2002.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the Japanese patent documents are attached hereto, and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also call the following co-pending and commonly assigned patent applications to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/731,474 to TANAKA et al., entitled "Cam Mechanism for Lens Barrel," which was filed on December 10, 2003; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/731,475 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens-Distance Varying Mechanism, and Step-Zoom Lens Incorporating the Same," which was filed on December 10, 2003.

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In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hitoshi TANAKA et al.

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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P24360Serial No.
10/731,473INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Hitoshi TANAKA et al.Filing Date
December 10, 2003Group
Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6 3 6 9 9 5 5	04/09/02	ENOMOTO et al.			
	4 9 7 4 9 4 9	12/04/90	TANAKA			
	5 7 9 0 9 0 1	08/04/98	NAKAYAMA et al.			
	6 5 1 2 6 3 8	01/28/03	SATO et al.			
	6 4 9 3 5 1 2	12/10/02	SATO			
	6 4 3 7 9 2 2	08/20/02	ENOMOTO et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
200	0 - 1 9 9 8 4 3	07/18/00	JAPAN			X
200	0 - 2 7 5 5 1 8	10/06/00	JAPAN			
	6 - 1 0 0 7 0 8	12/12/94	JAPAN			
	8 - 9 4 9 0 7	04/12/96	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.